



# Hands on Habitat

## State of Vermont

### What Are the Problems?

- **Riparian and wetland loss**  
Reduced flood storage threatens habitat for migratory fish and impacts local communities.
- **Sediments and pollution** In some areas, water quality has degraded to a level that adversely impacts fish.
- **Changes in stream hydrology**  
Dams and other structures alter natural flows and cause bank erosion.
- **Fish passage barriers** Man-made obstructions prevent migratory fish from reaching spawning and rearing habitat.

### Background

NOAA's Restoration Center is restoring the upper Connecticut River because of its important diadromous (migratory) fish habitats. The river and its tributaries provide important spawning and nursery areas for migratory fish such as Atlantic salmon, American shad, and blueback herring. The river also provides rearing habitat for American eel. Like many states, Vermont is experiencing rapid urban development that poses a challenge for diadromous fish habitat protection.

### What We Do

- Remove dams and other in-stream barriers
- Restore or enhance riparian habitat
- Enhance migratory fish passage
- Control invasive plant and animal species that displace native species and disrupt ecosystem functions
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

### How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among Vermont's public, private, and non-



profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the benefits and effectiveness of locally based habitat conservation in Vermont.

### Our Accomplishments

Since 1999, we have:

- Awarded more than \$52,000 and leveraged more than \$100,000
- Managed \$64,000 in Congressionally directed funds
- Funded 10 projects
- Completed 6 projects
- Engaged roughly 250 volunteers for 1,200 service hours through partner-led activities

### Our Partners

NOAA works with 26 local and regional groups on habitat restoration projects in Vermont. Key partners include the Connecticut River Watershed Council, Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, FishAmerica Foundation, Northeast Kingdom Conservation Service Corps, Trout Unlimited, and White River Partnership.

## Our Focus

**Improve riparian habitat and reopen rivers and streams for fish passage to restore connections with the coastal ecosystem**

### Contact

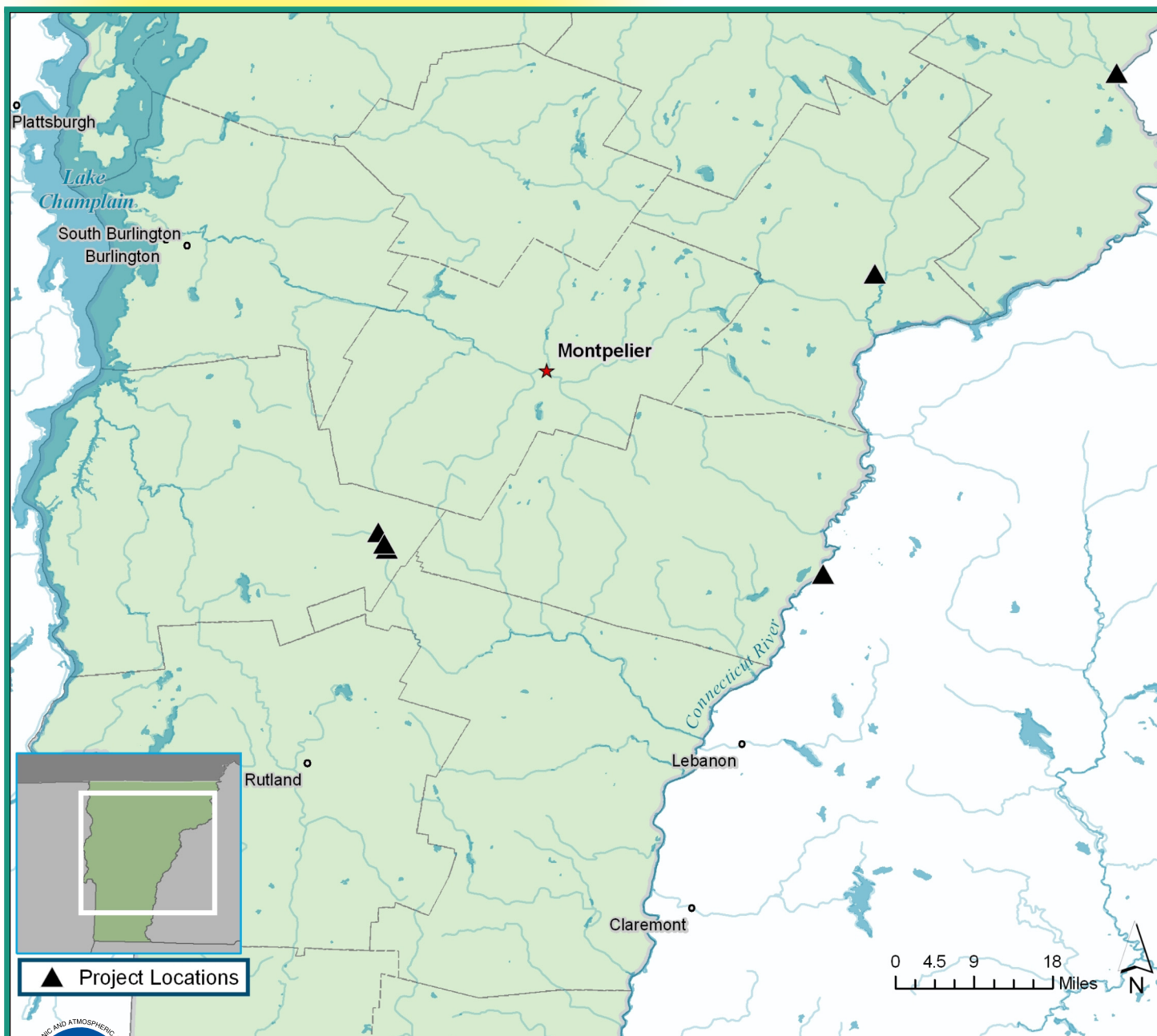
James Turek, [James.G.Turek@noaa.gov](mailto:James.G.Turek@noaa.gov)  
Lisa Cavallaro, [Lisa.Cavallaro@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Cavallaro@noaa.gov)  
NOAA Restoration Center  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
28 Tarzwell Drive  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
401.782.3338

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/)

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# NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

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### SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Birch Meadow Farm  
Riverbank Restoration**  
**Hook Farm Riverbank  
Restoration, Bloomfield**

**Sleeper's River  
Restoration Project, St.  
Johnsbury**

**Upper White River  
Restoration Project,  
Granville**